

Common Turkic Alphabet

The **Common Turkic Alphabet** (Turkish: *Ortak türk alfabesi*; Azerbaijani: *Ortaq türk əlifbası*; Tatar: Cyrillic Уртақ төрки әлифба, Latin *Urtaq törki älifba*; Kazakh: Ortaq türki älipbii) is a project of a single Latin alphabet for all Turkic languages based on a slightly modernized Turkish alphabet. The old system was developed in the Soviet Union and used in the 1920-1930s; the current system is an alphabet with 34 letters recognised by the Turkic Council.^[1] Its letters are as follows:

Common Turkic Alphabet																																			
Upper Case	A	Ä	B	C	Ç	D	E	F	G	Ğ	H	İ	ı	J	K	L	M	N	Ň	O	Ö	P	Q	R	S	Ş	T	U	Ü	V	W	X	Y	Z	'
Lower Case	a	ä	b	c	ç	d	e	f	g	ğ	h	ı	i	j	k	l	m	n	ñ	o	ö	p	q	r	s	ş	t	u	ü	v	w	x	y	z	'
IPA	ɑ	æ	b	d͡ʒ	t͡ʃ	d	e	f	ɡ	ɣ	h	ɯ	i	ɟ	k	l	m	n	ɲ	o	ø	p	q	r	s	ʃ	t	u	y	v	w	x	j	z	ʔ

- Long forms of vowels are shown with a Circumflex (in Azerbaijani and Turkish): **Â, Ê, Î, Ô, Û**.

Contents
History
Grapheme-phoneme correspondences
Non-Turkic (Cyrillic or Arabic) Letters
In the USSR
Bibliography
References
External links
See also

History

In connection with the collapse of the USSR, in the newly formed republics in which the Turkic languages were the main ones, the ideas of Pan-Turkism became popular again, and, as a consequence, so did the movement for the restoration of the Latin alphabet. In order to unify, and at the initiative of Turkey in November 1991, an international scientific symposium was held in Istanbul on the development of a unified alphabet for the Turkic languages. It was completely based on the Turkish alphabet, but with the addition of some missing letters: **ä, ñ, q, w, x**. As a result, the alphabet consisted of 34 letters, 29 of which were taken from Turkish.

Azerbaijan was the first to adopt this alphabet in December 1991, later Turkmenistan in April 1993 and Uzbekistan in September 1993. In September 1993, at a regular conference in Ankara, representatives of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan officially announced the transition to the new alphabet.

However, already in 1992, Azerbaijan was reforming its alphabet and replacing the letter **ä** with **ə**, taken from old Cyrillic and Yañalif.

In May 1995, the government of Uzbekistan completely abandoned the new alphabet in favor of a different one, based only on the standard 26-letter Latin alphabet. The same version is accepted for the Karakalpak language.

Turkmenistan also introduced its own alphabet in 1995, which is only partially similar to the general Turkic, but differs from it in a number of letters.

As a result, only Azerbaijani (1991, with one letter changed in 1992), Gagauz (1996), Crimean Tatar (1992, officially since 1997), Tatar in the Tatar Wikipedia (since 2013) and some mass media have used the common Turkic alphabet with minor changes (since 1999).^{[2][3]}

The Tatar Latin script, introduced in September 1999 and canceled in January 2005, used a slightly different set of additional letters (**ŋ** instead of **ñ**, **ə** instead of **ä**), and the letter **ə** instead of Turkish **ö**. Since December 24, 2012, the common Turkic alphabet has been officially used as a means of transliterating the Tatar Cyrillic alphabet.^[4]

In 2019, an updated version of the Uzbek Latin alphabet was revealed by the Uzbek government, with five letters being updated; it was proposed to represent the sounds "ts", "sh", "ch", "o'" and "g'" by the letters "c", "ş", "ç", "ó" and "ğ", respectively.^[5] This reverses a 1995 reform, and brings the orthography closer to that of Turkish and also of Turkmen, Karakalpak, Kazakh (2018 version) and Azerbaijani.^{[6][7]}

In April 2021, a revised version of the Kazakh Latin alphabet was presented, introducing the letters Ä ä (Ə ə), Ö ö (Ө ө), Ü ü (Ү ү), Ğ ğ (Ғ ғ), Ū ū (Ұ ұ), Ñ ñ (Ң ң), and Ş ş (Ш ш). This version will be officially implemented starting 2023.^{[8][9]}

Grapheme-phoneme correspondences

The orthographies of Turkic languages are largely phonetic, meaning that the pronunciation of a word can usually be determined from its spelling. This rule excludes recent loanwords such as proper names. The letters representing vowel sounds in Turkic dialects are, in alphabetical order, ⟨a⟩, ⟨ä⟩ and ⟨e⟩, ⟨ı⟩, ⟨i⟩, ⟨o⟩, ⟨ö⟩, ⟨u⟩, ⟨ü⟩.^[10]

Common	A	Ä	B	C	Ç	D	D
Turkish	A	-	B	C	Ç	D	D
Azerbaijani alphabet	A	Ə	B	C	Ç	D	D
Turkmen	A	Ä	B	J	Ç	D	D
Gagauz	A	Ä	B	C	Ç	D	D
Crimean Tatar	A	-	B	C	Ç	D	D
Tatar	A	Ä	B	C	Ç	D	D
Bashkir	A	Ä	B	-	Ç	D	D
Kumyk	A	Ä	B	C	Ç	D	D
Karachay-Balkar	A	-	B	C	Ç	D	D
Karaim	A	E	B	DŽ	Č	D	D
Kazakh	A	Ä	B	DJ	ТҢ	D	D
Karakalpak	A	Ä	B	DJ	CH	D	D
Nogai	A	Ä	B	C	Ç	D	D
Kyrgyz	A	-	B	DJ	Ç	D	D
Uzbek	A	A	B	DJ	CH	D	D
Uzbek (2021)	A	A	B	J	Ç	D	D
Uyghur (UYY)	A	E	B	J	CH	D	D
Salar (TB30)	A	E	B	C	Ç	D	D
Salar (UYY)	A	E	B	J/ZH	Q/CH	D	D
Arabic script	ا, آ	ـ	ب	ج	چ	د	د
Cyrillic script	А	Ә	Б	Ж, җ, Ў	Ч	Д	Д
IPA	/a/ /a/	/æ/ /b/		/d͡ʒ/	/t͡ʃ/	/d͡ʒ/	/d/

1. Ä=Ə=Ə
2. Č=J
3. ɐ=θ and Ž=Ð
4. Ҥ=T+S and Ɖ=D+Z
5. Š=ص and Đ=ص
6. Ң=ط and Ɖ=ط
7. Long: Ä, Ė, Ĭ, Ō, Ū.
8. Soft: Ä, Ė, Ĭ, Ō, Ū.
9. Thin: Grave (`) - Consonant letters
10. /b/ in Uzbek

- Semi-vowels (*Glottal Letters*) are shown with a breve (or caron in Chuvash): **Ä, Ė, Ĭ, Ō, Ū**.
- The /θ/ phoneme (Latin **Š** or **Ṭ**, Arabic **ث**, Cyrillic **Ч**) is only present in the Bashkir language.
- The /ð/ phoneme (Latin **Ž** or **Ḍ**, Arabic **ذ**, Cyrillic **Ж**) is only present in the Bashkir language.
- Ä is sometimes written as **Əə** or **Ӑə** (Latin glyphs).^{[11][12][13]}
- The phonemes /t͡ʃ/ (**Т**) and /d͡ʒ/ (**Д**) are represented in the Lipka Tatars Belarusian Arabic alphabet.^{[14][15][16]}
- Some handwritten letters have variant forms. For example: **Čč=Jj**, **Кк=Kk**, and **Һһ=Hh**.^[17]
- The Cyrillic **С**, **Ь**, and **Ъ** may be written as **З**, **Л**, and **Н** respectively.
- **ق** = **ق** (representing /q/) or **ق** (representing /g/).
- **س** (**ص**), **ز** (**ط**), and **ت** (**ط**) are used to represent the front and back variants of the letters S, Z, and T/D respectively. They are commonly found at the beginning of words to indicate all following vowels will be back vowels. If the sounds S, Z, T, or D occur in the middle of a word with exclusively back vowels, they may appear in their "soft" or neutral forms of S (س), Z (ز), T (ت) or D (د). (The letter **ت** (**ط**) can represent the back vowel variants of T and D). Unlike Turkish, Arabic does not have vowel-dependent placement rules for these letters; they appear wherever emphatic consonants occur and can thus be seen in any part of the word. Some examples include *Šahib*, *Sabun*, *Huśuś*, *Šabr*, etc.

Non-Turkic (Cyrillic or Arabic) Letters

- **Ț** (*T-cedilla, minuscule: ț*) is a letter originating as part of the Romanian alphabet, used to represent the Romanian and Moldovan phoneme /t͡s/, the voiceless alveolar affricate (like *ts* in *bolts*).^[18] It is written as the letter **T** with a small comma below and it has both lower-case and the upper-case variants. It is also a part of the Gagauz alphabet and the Livonian alphabet.^[19] The letter corresponds to Cyrillic **Тse** (**Ц**) in the romanisation of Cyrillic Turkic alphabets.
- **Ȧ** (*D-cedilla, minuscule: Ȧ*) is a letter originating as part of the old Romanian alphabet, used to represent the old Romanian and Moldovan sound /d͡ʒ/, the voiced alveolar affricate.^[20] It is written as the letter **D** with a small comma below, and it has both lower-case and the upper-

Đ (џ) is only used for Arabic transcriptions; the emphatic consonant it represents does not exist in Turkic languages. For example: *Ramadan, Kadi, Kada, Ďarb, Ďarbe, Ard*, etc.

The Latin letter **Ě** (E-umlaut) has no relation to the Cyrillic letter **Ё** (Yo). The Latin letter **Ě** represents the sound sequence /je/ and thus corresponds to the Cyrillic letter **Є** in Ukrainian or **Е** in Russian.

The Cyrillic **Ѕ**, **Ь** and **Ѓ** all originate in the Serbian and Macedonian alphabets and represent the same phonemes as in the CTA.

The **New Turkic Alphabet** was a Latin alphabet used by non-Slavic peoples of the USSR in the 1920-1930s. The alphabet used letters from Janalif as it was also a part of the uniform alphabet. The new alphabet utilised the basic Latin letters excluding "w", as well as some additional letters.

Examples of Latin Turkic alphabets 1922-1940

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- ИЗ ИСТОРИИ ПИСЬМА АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКИХ ТЮРКОВ, Мансур Рахбари (Южный Азербайджан, Иран), Bextiyartuncay. Э(ə) harfi için örnek (<http://bextiyartuncay.wordpress.com/2012/03/24/%D0%B8%D0%B7-%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B8-%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%8C%D0%BC%D0%B0-%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B1%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%B4%D0%B6%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%85-%D1%82%D1%8E/>) - "*э(ə)CPU : леорард (Китаб аль – Идрак ли – Лисан аль – Атрак), мизр (Махмуд Кашгару)"*
- Eesti Keele Instituut / Institute of the Estonian Language KNAB: Kohanimeandmebaas / Place Names Database, Taadi / Tat / Жугьури Džuhuri latinisatsioon / romanization: KNAB 2012-09-30 - Notes-2: (<http://www.eki.ee/knab/lat/kbljdt.pdf>) "*In the earlier Azerbaijani Cyrillic there were variations: ə (= ә)."*
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External links

- Kitabs, the unique highlight of the Belarusian language (https://web.archive.org/web/20020830171327/http://www.pravapis.org/art_kitab1_en.asp)

See also

- Latinisation (USSR)

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